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REPORT ON THE REVISION OF THE SYSTEM OF NATIONAL ACCOUNT

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INTRODUCTION

1. At its sixth session held in February 1991, the United Nations Statistical Commission once again accorded top priority to the programme for the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and recommended that the revised final version should be submitted to its twenty-seventh session in 1993 for adoption. The present document outlines the progress of the activities involved in the review of the SNA and reports on work done in that regard. It is, in fact, an improved and updated version of the technical document entitled Report on the Revision of the System of National Account (SNA), number E/ECA/PSD.6/TP.6 , which was submitted to the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers in January 1990.

2. The document is divided into four sections. The first section gives a general overview of how the revision was organized, particularly the series of expert group meetings convened to consider the various technical aspects. The second section outlines the main features of the new provisional version of the revised SNA. Section three reports on the progress achieved in the preparation of the Blue Book and National Accounting Handbooks and section four describes the future work programme at the international and regional levels.

I. ORGANIZATION OF THE REVISION EXERCISE

3. It should be mentioned that following the publication of the SNA manual in 1968, all countries endeavoured to put its principles into practice. With regard to countries of the Africa region, the ECA secretariat organized many training seminars in national accounting, working group meetings and workshops on specific areas for the proper use of the new system and provided advisory services in national accounting to help member States. Furthermore, African countries benefitted from technical, bilateral and multilateral assistance in the implementation of national accounting projects.

4. Nevertheless, according to a report on the status of SNA implementation published in 1980 by the United Nations Statistical Office, nearly all countries had difficulties in implementing the System. This was due to the fact that, on the one hand, the current version of the SNA manual was too confusing to be understood by producers and users of national accounts while, on the other hand, it no longer addressed new information needs. This was why the United Nations Statistical Commission, at its twenty-first session in 1981, recommended that an inter-secretariat working group on national accounts should be set up to:

(i) Define objectives for the review of the SNA; and

(b) Organize the SNA review exercise.

5. The revision of the SNA was carried out by an Inter-Secretariat Working Group set-up in New York in 1982 and in which the following organizations participated: the United Nations Statistical Office, the Statistical Office of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (EUROSTAT), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the regional commissions. The Inter-Secretariat

Working Group coordinated the review activities, organized expert group meetings for national accounting specialists from national bureaux of statistics and international organizations and ensured that their views were duly reflected in the future version of the SNA.

6. The objectives of the review exercise were to simplify, clarify and update the SNA and its accompanying handbooks in order to make them more understandable to those who prepared national accounts and those who used such accounts. Accordingly, the new version of the Blue Book will describe comprehensively and accurately the conceptual framework, more particularly the definition and classification of transactors and transactions. Furthermore, during the review period, a series of national accounting handbooks will be prepared and published by the United Nations Statistical Office. Those handbooks will contain further clarifications of the theoretical framework (concepts, definitions, classification, accounts and tables) and provide practical advice on data sources, compilation methods and information backed with examples of possible SNA applications.

7. The review exercise was carried out at expert group meetings which considered in depth the various specific aspects of the SNA. Thus since 1986 three series of meetings have been organized successively. These are the specialized meetings, the coordinating meetings and meetings of the regional commissions.

1. Specialized group meetings

8. The Inter-Secretariat Working Group submitted to each expert group meeting a list of the issues to be considered in revising the SNA. Each expert group was composed of:

(a) Six permanent national experts - three from developed countries such as France, Germany and the United States of America and three from developing countries such as Chile, the Congo and India - who participated in all the meetings in order to ensure the general comprehensiveness of the System ;

(b) At least six national experts specializing in the issues to be considered in connection with the revision of the SNA; and

(c) Representatives of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group.

9. During the period 1986-1989, the following expert group meetings were held :

(a) Expert group meeting on the SNA structure held in Geneva from 23 to 27 June 1986, and was organized by the United Nations Statistical Office. Attending this meeting were 12 national experts including the six permanent members, the national experts of Australia, Chile, Israel, the Netherlands, Norway and Venezuela together with representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF and the World Bank;

(b) Expert group meeting on the Comparison of Price and Quantity Measures, held at Luxembourg from 10 to 12 November 1986 and was organized by EUROSTAT. In addition to the six permanent members,

the meeting was attended by experts from Canada, Colombia, the United States of America, Japan and the Netherlands. Representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF, the World Bank and ECA also attended the meeting;

(c) Expert group meeting on External Transactions, held in Washington from 23 March to 3 April 1987 was organized by IMF. Twelve countries sent national accounting experts to the meeting. In addition to the permanent members were representatives from Australia, Ecuador, the United States of America, France, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands along with representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF and the World Bank;

(d) Expert group meeting on Household Sector Accounts, held in Florence from 31 August to 4 September 1987 was organized by the World Bank. Six countries sent experts in national accounts. The six permanent members attended together with representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF and the World Bank. The national experts represented the following countries: Canada, Hungary, Mauritius, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Venezuela;

(e) Expert group meeting on Public Sector Accounts was organized by the IMF in Washington from 25 to 29 January 1988. Twelve countries sent their national accounting experts to participate in the meeting. In addition to the six permanent members, representatives of Brazil, the Congo, Finland, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka attended together with representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF and the World Bank;

(f) Expert group meeting on Production Accounts and Input-Output tables was held in Vienna from 21 to 30 March 1988. Thirteen countries sent their national accounting experts to this meeting which was jointly organized by the United Nations Statistical Office and UNIDO. In addition to the six permanent members, national accounting experts from Australia, Canada, Denmark, the United States of America, Indonesia, Mexico and Zimbabwe as well representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF, the World Bank, UNIDO, ESCAP and the United Nations International Research and the Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) attended the meeting; and

(g) Expert group meeting on Financial Flows and Balances held in Washington from 6 to 14 September 1988 and was organized by IMF. Eleven national experts participated in the meeting. In addition to the permanent members, experts from Cyprus, the United States of America, Japan, Mexico, the United Kingdom and Thailand attended as did representatives from the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF and the World Bank.

10. Each group of experts had the principal function of drawing conclusions and making recommendations on the subject with which it had been entrusted. Each meeting had before it substantive working papers and many supporting documents. The substantive papers dealt with the issues entrusted to the specific group of experts and included a summary of the conclusions of previous regional and

specialized meetings as well as of meetings of other expert groups that may have dealt with some of those issues.

2. Coordination group meetings

11. In 1989, the permanent expert group on coordination of the SNA was set up. It comprised the six-permanent experts and national experts from Argentina, Denmark, the United States of America, India, Papua New Guinea, the United Kingdom, Zimbabwe and representatives of the United Nations Statistical Office, OECD, EUROSTAT, IMF, the World Bank, ESCAP and ECA. The group had five meetings as follows:

(a) Luxemburg from 23 to 27 January 1989, organized by EUROSTAT;

(b) New York from 12 to 21 July 1989 and from 13 to 22 September 1989, organized by the United Nations Statistical Office;

(c) Washington from 3 to 7 December 1990, organized by the United Nations Statistical Office; and

(d) Harare, Zimbabwe from 8 to 17 April 1991, organized by the United Nations Statistical Office.

12. These meetings were devoted to considering all the chapters and annexes of the first provisional version of the revised SNA, as well as the structure of accounts, tables and the classifications in it in order to be sure that the conclusions of the various expert groups were well reflected in the text and that there were no contradictions between them. The meetings also drew conclusions and made recommendations on certain issues that had not been resolved by the specialized meetings and on comments of meetings of the regional commissions and the Statistical Commission as well as those sent by the national bureaux of statistics and by individual experts.

13. An expert group meeting on Reconciliation of MPS/SNA Standards on National Accounting was also held in Moscow from 4 to 9 December 1989, organized jointly by the United Nations Statistical Office and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). In addition to the six permanent members, national accounting experts from Bulgaria, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Finland, Hungary, India, Poland, Czechoslovakia and Zimbabwe as well as representatives of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group participated in the meeting. The objective of the meeting was to examine the possibilities for greater harmonization between the two systems in order to integrate them further, in other words, to draw them as close together as much as possible both from the theoretical and practical viewpoints. The group examined the differences between the two systems and recommended eliminating the differences that resulted from institutional provisions, national practices and data sources.

3. Meetings of the regional commissions

14. As part of the SNA review exercise, five meetings of the United Nations regional commissions were organized in 1990 to examine the general orientations of the draft chapters of the revised SNA, the

main features in terms of concepts, nomenclatures, accounts and tables, changes made, issues that had not yet been resolved, issues of particular concern to the regions and the question of implementation of the SNA. The venues and dates of those meetings are follows:

(a) Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Addis Ababa from 16 to 25 July 1990;

(b) Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Geneva from 10 to 13 September 1990;

(c) Economic Commission for Latin America and the Carribean (ECLAC), Rio de Janeiro, from 18 to 28 September 1990;

(d) Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Bangkok from 15 to 14 August 1990 for countries of the Asian continent and Suva, from 29 August to 7 September 1990 for countries of the Pacific region; and

(e) Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ECSWA), Tunis from 11 to 15 June 1990.

15. A working document entitled "Issues to be discussed within the context of the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA)", prepared by the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts was submitted to the meeting of the regional commissions. The document which was intended to facilitate discussion of the draft chapters of the revised version of the SNA has two parts. The first part, outlines the main features of the revised SNA as regards concepts and nomenclatures and stresses specific issues that had been considered during the expert group meetings, separating those on which conclusions were reached from those which were left pending. The second part, describes the structure of SNA in terms of nomenclatures, accounts, tables, matrices and links with other systems. The issues to be discussed were categorized in the first part into eight major analytical areas, defined during the discussions among the expert groups. This was in order to assist the regional commissions in organizing their discussions and to enable them to draw conclusions that would genuinely help the review exercise. The reports of the regional commission meetings which recap the main recommendations and conclusions were submitted to the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission held in February 1991.

16. With regard to the participation of African countries in the SNA revision, it was noted during the ECA meeting that some recommendations and conclusions of the countries adopted during the seminar devoted exclusively to the revision of the SNA organized in Addis Ababa from 29 September to 3 October 1986 had been taken into account in the revised SNA. These are:

Structure of the revised SNA

(a) The revised SNA should apply equally to all countries and consequently should not comprise a separate chapter devoted to developing countries;

(b) The broad outlines of the SNA structure should remain unchanged. It would be useful to introduce production accounts for the institutional sectors. Directives should be provided in the form of handbooks, and transactions of the institutional sectors should be presented in the form of a sequence of accounts with explicit intermediate accounting balances. The SNA should be harmonized with other statistical systems (norms) and "T accounts" should be maintained.

SNA economic transactors

The dual denomination should be maintained, basing the distinction between public enterprises and private enterprises on the criteria of ownership (holding of more than 50 per cent shares) and control.

SNA transactions

Fixed capital consumption of roads, bridges, etc. should be estimated; maintaining the basic concept of the delimitation of production as defined in the 1968 SNA by means of certain modifications or minor additions, for example, the inclusion of illegal activities if it is observed that they contribute significantly to GDP.

II. MAIN FEATURES OF THE REVISED SNA

17. The objectives of the exercise were to simplify, clarify and update the SNA in order to make it more comprehensible both for those who prepared national accounts and those who used such accounts. Those objectives seem to have been met since the system is clearer and better structured with better internal coherence between the concepts and nomenclatures. It introduces a number of points which responde to new analytical needs, and is linked to a large extent to other related statistical systems such as balance of payments, public finance statistics and monetary and banking statistics. Thus the SNA will be a reference manual for national accountants, serve as an introductory guide to persons concerned with national accounting and provide detailed explanations to users on the reasons for the treatments adopted.

18. The new revised SNA is very similar to that of 1968 in that the general system of economic analysis, which is based on the concept of production is not modified, namely:

(a) The study of the production process is conducted by branch of activity (groups of establishments) and by preparing an input-output table; and

(b) Income distribution, capital flow, monetary flows and balances sheets and their variations are analysed by institutional sectors.

However, there are many modifications compared to the 1968 SNA even if only the inclusion in the new version of specific extracts from United Nations publications is considered. The publications concerned are: Provisional International Guidelines on the National

and Sectoral Balance Sheet and Reconciliation Account of the SNA. (Series M no. 60), Guidelines on Statistics of Tangible Assets (Series M no. 68), Provisional Guidelines on Statistics of the Distribution of Income, Consumption and Accumulation of Households (Series M no. 61), and Manual on National Accounts at Constant Prices (Series M no. 64).

19. The main features of the revised SNA and the principal differences between the new and the old systems relate to: integrated presentation of the Systems; integrated analysis of production; income formation and income distribution; enlarged conceptualization of assets; external transactions; analysis of inflation; and the household sector.

1. Integrated presentation of the System

20. The System comprises (a) a central framework; (b) subsidiary presentations in matrix form; (c) complementary tables for such specific analyses as the adaptation of the System to various situations and satellite accounts; and (d) correlations between the System and other statistical systems. Each of these four elements are either new or have a new orientation compared to the 1968 SNA.

21. It should be emphasized that the central framework of the SNA has a hierarchical classification of transactions, assets and transactors, a series of institutional sector accounts, a table on the supply and disposition of goods and services and synthesis tables. These tables comprise simplified accounts for the nation, an overall economic table for the entire economy, an input-output table, balance sheet accounts as well as financial transaction tables on three dimensions, identifying credits, debts and their variations by credit and debit sectors.

2. Integrated analysis of production, income formation and income distribution

22. The SNA now stipulates explicitly that the analysis of the process of primary income production and generation should be done also by sector and that a crossed classification of all production and operating transaction accounts should be prepared by branch of activity and institutional sector. Thus, the SNA classifies individual enterprises under the institutional household sector while production and operating accounts of the household sector are added to transactions specifically related to home industries.

23. The revised SNA traces the income distribution and redistribution stages more explicitly by subdividing the income and expenditure accounts of the 1968 SNA and highlighting the intermediate accounting balances. New concepts of additional income are introduced as follows:

(a) Primary income is defined as operating surplus plus property and entrepreneurial incomes less property and entrepreneurial expenditure. Compensation of labour, capital and payments to the State (taxes on production) are recorded at this stage. The total of this aggregate for all sectors becomes the gross

national income, a new term proposed in place of gross national product;

(b) Entrepreneurial income is defined as operating surplus plus property incomes less property expenditure by industrial producers, with the exception of incomes distributed by companies;

(c) Mixed income is defined as operating surplus of individual companies of the household sector and a mixture of payments for labour and property as well as for the capital and the enterprise. For companies, on the other hand, compensation of labour is deducted as salaries before calculating the operating surplus. To highlight that difference in the composition of operating surplus in the revised SNA, the operating surplus of the household sector is subdivided into surplus generated by owner-occupiers and that generated by other individual enterprises, the latter being called "mixed income".

24. The SNA makes a distinction between industrial producers and products and non-industrial producers and products. As a general rule, industrial producers are those who depend on sales to cover 50 per cent or more of their production cost while the proportion for non-industrial producers is less than 50 per cent. The price of industrial products is determined on the basis of market prices while that for non-industrial products is assessed on the basis of production costs. The distinction between "industrial" and "non-industrial" differs on several points from that adopted in the 1968 SNA, namely: (a) at the level of terminology; (b) by the introduction of a specific criterion that allows a distinction to be made between industrial market producers and non-industrial producers; and (c) by the extension of this distinction to goods as well.

25. A number of modifications have been introduced with regard to production and the use of the production of financial intermediaries, namely banks and insurance companies. The imputed production of banking services (the difference between property income received and interest paid out) is broken down according to how the services are used: final consumption of households and of Governments, exports and intermediate consumption. A change in terminology is proposed for the old concept of "imputed production of banking services" by replacing it with "imputed compensation of the services of financial intermediaries". Evaluation of the imputed production of the insurance companies is modified by adding property income from technical reserves.

26. It is also proposed to introduce in the revised SNA imputed rents of government buildings. Such imputations would entail reflecting the cost of capital in the calculation of government production, which would result in an operating surplus for this sector. Moreover, the accounts would also show fixed capital consumption for all governmental fixed assets including not only buildings but also roads, dams and similar constructions. It is assumed in the 1968 SNA that maintaining roads and similar structures extends their lifespan indefinitely.

27. For the estimation of production and the corresponding value added, the SNA contains three modes of evaluation, namely (a) at

production prices; (b) at factory prices excluding VAT; and (c) at factory prices including VAT. However, all the components of final demand - private consumption and government consumption, capital formation and exports - are generally estimated at market prices as in the 1968 SNA.

28. The new SNA also comprises a series of recommendations on the aggregates on population and employment in conformity with the main overall tables of the System so as to allow for an integrated analysis of the labour market and of the economy.

3. Enlarged conceptualization of assets

29. The concept of assets is extended to services which are no longer regarded systematically as immediate consumption once supplied. Thus, the fixed cost of mineral prospection, computer software and artistic and literary works are classified as capital expenditure. Such treatment has led to a modification of the coverage and nomenclature of assets and asset variations. It is to be noted that research and developmental expenditure are always considered as intermediate consumption.

30. In an initial definition in the revised SNA, a distinction is made between non-financial assets and financial assets. In a second level of definition, a distinction is made between product assets and non-product assets for each of those two categories. This is followed by a third level of definition which distinguishes between tangible assets and intangible assets. Regarding asset variations, the nomenclature differs radically from that of assets, because the variations are registered by type of variation and not by type of asset. In this nomenclature, a distinction is made between gross capital formation, net land purchases and other non-product assets, the other variations in volume of assets and liabilities, nominal profits and losses and modifications in the nomenclature and the structure of assets and liabilities.

31. Natural resources, which are fixed capital goods and which include such products as breeding stock, dairy cattle, draught animals and the like, as well as woods and cultivated forests, plantations (orchards, vineyards, etc.) and fisheries are treated in the SNA as production at the time of growth. They are considered as ongoing activities contributing to stock variation and in certain cases to the formation of gross fixed capital as in the case of livestock breeding.

32. Durable goods for military purposes are classified in the revised SNA under the formation of fixed gross capital when such military equipment which can be purchased by civilians for production purposes are effectively used by the military for the same purposes. On the other hand, all destructive weapons of war would continue to be treated as intermediate consumption of the producers of government services and consequently included in the final consumption of Governments.

4. External transactions

33. The changes proposed in the external transaction accounts of the SNA are aimed at harmonizing the SNA and the Balance-of-Payments Manual.

34. The basic criterion of the concept of residence is the "economic centre of interest" and on this the SNA gives the following principle: having an economic centre of interest in a country should normally be considered to apply to any institutional unit that has been engaged in economic activities and transactions in the country for a year or more or intends to do so within a year or more. However, this is merely a guideline a not a strict rule and sometimes other factors should be taken into account in the delimitation of residential units. Generally, students, operators of mobile equipment, flag of convenience ships, or enterprises installing equipment abroad are not classified as residents. As in the current SNA, regional and international organizations continue to be treated as extra-territorial units.

35. A number of modifications have been introduced regarding the treatment of export and import of goods and services, including the following:

(a) Goods exported for processing are recorded as exports if the goods undergo major physical processing resulting in a change of their characteristics;

(b) Goods transported between a parent company and its foreign subsidiary are treated as if there has been a change in ownership and consequently are recorded as imports or exports;

(c) Repairs made on capital goods are treated as foreign trade merchandise;

(d) Direct purchases made by residents abroad or by non-residents on the domestic market are treated as imports and exports respectively; and

(e) The aggregate of imported goods is recorded on FOB basis but in the supply-disposition and input-output tables, imports are always assessed on CIF basis through adjusting the accounts to ensure harmony between the two modes of estimation.

36. One major modification made in the 1968 SNA is the inclusion of reinvested profit flows, bringing the SNA in harmony with current practice in balance-of-payments calculation. Reinvested profits are classified as property income received/paid out and at the same time as increase in external loans/financial commitments in the foreign transactions account.

5. Analysis of inflation

37. The revised SNA continues to use Laspeyres-type volume indices as the main measurement at constant prices, but also introduces annual chain indices in addition to the fixed volume indicators.

38. The SNA integrates profits on losses resulting from modification of the trade terms with GDP at constant prices to obtain a new income aggregate referred to as gross domestic income (GDI). Moreover, the SNA comprises the "available real net national income" aggregate obtained like the gross domestic income, plus real net factor income from the rest of the world equal to real gross national income plus real net current transfers for the rest of the world, equal to available real gross national income less fixed capital consumption at constant prices, equal to available real net national income. The net factor income and net current transfer from abroad should be converted in real terms by deflating current price flows by the price index of gross final domestic expenditure in other words final consumption expenditure and gross capital formation.

39. As regards the accounting of inflation, the revised SNA proposes that the nominal profits (losses) of holders of real or financial assets in neutral and real elements should be separated and the nominal interest recorded in income distribution and use accounts instead of real interest.

6. The household sector

40. In the revised SNA, greater importance is accorded to the breakdown of households into socio-professional groups in accordance with sources of income (wage earners, employers, own-account workers and beneficiaries of property income and transfers). The complete set of accounts, including production accounts is prepared for these subsectors of the household sector, allowing for analysis of the effects of income formation and distribution. This boils down to introducing the main elements of the Social Accounting Matrix (SAM) in the SNA.

41. The revised SNA includes two concepts of consumption for households, Governments and private non-profit institutions in the service of households (PNPIs). The first referred to as "consumption expenditure" relates to expenditure made by households, Governments and PNPIs. The second concept "real final consumption" of households comprises the part of expenditure made by Governments and individual PNPIs (for example, in education, health, etc.) while the other part of the consumption expenditure of Governments and PNPIs collectively (devoted particularly to defence, the police, etc.) continues to figure in real final consumption of the government and PNIP sector. The distinction between individual consumption and collective consumption of Governments and PNPIs is made on the basis of categories defined in the nomenclature of governmental functions. Two concepts of income, namely available income and adjusted available income correspond to the above two concepts of consumption for the three sectors. The difference between the two is represented by social transfers in kind from Governments and households to PNPIs, which are equivalent to the difference between real consumption and consumption expenditure. For households, Governments, and PNIPs together, the total consumption expenditure and the total real consumption are the same. Similarly, whether the consumption expenditure is subtracted from the available income or whether the real consumption is subtracted from adjusted available income, and whether this refers to households or to Governments or PNIPs, the two operations give the same amount of savings for the sector considered.

III. STATUS OF THE REVISED SNA AND NATIONAL ACCOUNTING MANUALS

42. As indicated earlier, the final outcome of the review process will be a new revised version of the SNA accompanied over the years by a series of national accounting manuals prepared and published by the United Nations Statistical Office.

1. The revised SNA

43. The United Nations Statistical Office has recruited Professor T.P. Hill as consultant to be the author of the new version of the SNA. Another consultant Mr. M.A. Vanoli is assisting him in the drafting of certain specific chapters such as those on "Overview of the Accounting Structure", "Satellite Accounts" and "Adaptation of the SNA to Certain Specific Conditions". He also participated, with the members of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group, in the preparation of the accounts structure, tables and nomenclatures. The chapters of the provisional first version of the revised SNA was discussed during the coor
ydination meetings of the twenty-sixth session of the Statistical Commission and sent to more than 180 national accounting experts and national bureaux of statistics throughout the world for their comments.

44. A second drafting exercise on the chapters reviewed by the coordination group is currently under way and a second improved provisional version will be distributed in 1992. The contents of that version are as follows:

Preface

Chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Overview of the accounting structure
3. Accounting transactions and regulations
4. Institutional units and sectors
5. Establishments and industries
6. Production accounts
7. Operating accounts and primary distribution of income
8. Accounts of secondary Ddstribution of income and redistribution of income in kind
9. Income use account
10. Capital accounts
11. Financial accounts
12. Variations of the net value of balance sheets
13. Balance sheets
14. External accounts
15. Supply - disposition table, input-output table
16. Accounts at constant prices
17. Population and employment
18. Functional analysis
19. Social accounting matrices
20. Applications and extensions
21. Satellite accounts

Annexes:

(I) Presentation of the SNA in Matrix Form
(II) Accounting Principles including a Taxonomy of Transactions and the Different Types of Imputations and Allocations in the System
(III) Links between the SNA and Related Statistical Systems: Balance-of-Payment Statistics (BPS), Public Finance Statistics (PFS), Monetary and Banking Statistics (MBS)
(IV) Table Showing the Differences Between the 1968 SNA and the Revised SNA
(V) Reconciliation of Current Accounts and Balance Sheets
(VI) Environmental Satellite Accounts
(VII) Satellite Accounts for Research and Development
(VIII) Glossary

This table of contents is still provisional and may be modified in the light of new developments.

2. National accounting manuals

45. Given the importance of proper implementation of the System, relevant manuals will be prepared to serve as practical guides for national accountants, mainly those of developing countries. The draft manuals will be published during the final stage of the SNA review exercise i.e. in 1993. They will provide new specifications on the flexibility of the central framework (in terms of concepts, accounts and tables applicable to specialized analysis) as well as information on basic statistical sources, preparation of tables and work sheets, links between SNA compilation and those of related statistical systems and on the use of national accounts for analytical and political purposes.

46. The two manuals already published, namely Production Accounts: Sources and Methods, and Public Sector Accounts will be revised once the revised SNA is adopted by the Statistical Commission. Other manuals being prepared are:

1. Input-output tables
2. Household sector accounts
3. Enterprise accounts
4. Accounting in an inflationary context
5. Application of the SNA to countries in transition (previously links between the SNA and the MPS)
6. Environmental accounts

IV. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

47. The Inter-Secretariat Working Group proposed the following work programme for the final phase of the SNA review:

(a) Dissemination of the provisional first version of the SNA in February 1992 (French and Spanish versions);

(b) Dissemination of the provisional second version of the SNA in March 1992 (English version);

(c) Interregional meeting in Aguascalientes, Mexico from 11 to 15 May 1992 to get the various national experts involved in the final review of the revised SNA and to formulate plans for implementing it and for continuing working out methodologies for the SNA;

(d) Expert Group Meeting on Coordination of the SNA to review the final draft of the revised SNA in the light of comments made during the interregional meeting.

48. It is planned to submit the final draft of the revised SNA to the United Nations Conference Services Department at about August 1992 for translation and reproduction. It will be ready for submission to the twenty-seventh session of the Statistical Commission for adoption in 1993.

49. At the level of ECA, it is planned to organize a workshop in 1993 to explain the revised system in more detail. Besides, the annual work programme of the Statistics Division includes advisory missions to assist the countries in the implementation of the revised SNA.